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Mineral King - Back Into Court

Federal District Judge William T. Sweigert has granted the Sierra Club's motion to amend its complaint in the suit to halt Disney Production's planned Winter and Summer resort complex in Mineral King. The motion to amend was filed on June 2 in response to the Supreme Court's ruling that the Club's original complaint alleged insufficient facts upon which to base standing. The Club, in response to the Supreme Court ruling, stated its interests in and historic use of the area, and brought its suit into conformance with the Supreme Court ruling by alleging Sierra Club Chapters and members regularly conduct outings in Mineral King, and that the Club's "aesthetic, environmental and recreational interests" would be injured by conversion of the area into a massive summer and winter resort.

In addition, the amended complaint adds nine individuals and the Mineral King District Association, an organization of local cabin owners as plaintiffs. The nine individual plaintiffs include Sierra Club Director Martin Litton, Southern California Representative Larry E. Moss, and Jean Koch of the Angeles Chapter who has been very active on this issue.

Jim Moorman, Executive Director of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, is actively involved in the preparation of this legal case for the U.S. District Court. Some words of Jim's which appeared in the January 1972 issue of the Sierra Club Bulletin are worth considering as regards Mineral King.

I quote: "Over seventy lawsuits to protect the environment have been brought by the Sierra Club in the past two years. Enough victories have been won to demonstrate that the lawsuit is a useful device to achieve conservation goals... In my opinion no lawsuit will, *ultimately* win any conservation issue. Ultimate victory requires political victory... The lawsuit can buy the time necessary to rally support. Secondly, the courtroom can provide a forum in which the facts can be obtained and aired in public... A review of the Club's litigation, however, reveals that little that is conclusive has been won by law suits alone... On the other hand, cases have been lost in court only to be won in political forums... Ultimately, the environment can be protected and saved only if we persuade our fellow human beings that protection is necessary. In the long run the attitude of the courts toward environmental problems will simply reflect the consensus of society as a whole. Thus, our hope depends on educating and persuading enough people. Our success depends upon popular interest in and sympathy for our goals."

These words are particularly applicable to the Mineral King situation. Many Club members feel strongly about Mineral King and the unfortunate development planned by the Disney Corporation and the Forest Service. We cannot match the full-paid advertisements which recently were run by the Disney Corporation in all major California newspapers. Yet, there are an enormous number of people in the Club who would be willing to

work on this issue. Brochures, public speakers, contacts with legislators, etc. are needed if we are eventually to win this battle.

Send a note to: Larry E. Moss,
Southern California Representative,
Sierra Club,
2410 W. Beverly Blvd., Suite 2,
Los Angeles, CA 90057

and offer your help to this campaign. Mineral King won't be saved without your help.

—Larry Moss—

Mineral King Road Deletion Moves Ahead

Assemblyman Z'berg's bill to delete the Mineral King Road from the State Highway System has passed the Assembly and is now ready to go to the floor of the Senate after a favorable vote in the Senate Transportation Committee. The vote of the nine-member committee was 7-2, with Senators Schrade, Holmdahl, Kennick, Marks, Mills, Roberti and Whetmore voting favorably and Senators Carrell and Walsh against. Names of Senators with districts in the boundaries of the Angeles Chapter are underlined. If your Senator was one who helped move the bill out "do pass", please drop him a note of appreciation. In any case, write your Senator and urge a favorable floor vote.

—Robin Ives—

Critical Time For The Santa Monica Mountains

The President of the United States is still not convinced that significant Federal participation is warranted for a park project in the Santa Monica Mountains. This is an untenable position for the President, particularly in an election year, if enough Los Angeles area residents let him know that they are unhappy with his position on this issue.

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation's study on the value and potential uses of the Santa Monica Mountains is now available in Washington, D.C. The report strongly points out the need for preservation of a substantial portion of the Mountains; hopefully we can convince the President to act on the report's recommendations.

Please write to: President Richard M. Nixon,
The White House,
Washington D.C., 20500

and express your concern for what is presently happening in the Santa Monica Mountains, ask for the President's support for an Urban National Park in the Santa Monica Mountains, and ask for a commitment of at least \$30,000,000 *this year* to start the acquisition and planning process.

—Larry Moss—